

Claims

1. A horse shoe comprising a sole member, a front panel which is connected to and extends upwardly from the front of said sole so as, in use, to extend along the front of the hoof of an animal, a back panel which is connected to and extends upwards from the back of said sole so, in use, to extend along the back of the hoof of an animal, a front strap assembly which extends obliquely on each side of the shoe between a rear portion of the base and said front panel, and a rear strap assembly which extends obliquely on each side of the shoe between a front portion of the base and said back panel.
2. A horse shoe according to claim 1, wherein said front strap assembly comprises a first front panel strap which extends from one side of the shoe, across said sole member proximate to the rear of the shoe to the other side of the shoe, and a second front panel strap which extends from one side of the shoe across said front panel to the other side of the shoe, at least one of said first and second front panel straps including fastening means for securing each end of said first front panel strap to an end of the second front panel strap.
3. A horse shoe according to claim 2, wherein said first front panel strap passes across an inner side of the sole member, and the second front panel strap passes across at least a substantial portion of the front panel on an inner side of said front panel, the front panel preferably including openings on either side through which the second panel strap extends to pass from the outer surface to the inner surface of the front panel.
4. A horse shoe according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said rear strap assembly comprises a first rear panel strap which extends from one side of the shoe, across said sole member proximate to the front of the shoe to the other side of the shoe, and a second rear panel strap which extends from one side of the shoe across said rear panel to the other side of the shoe, at least one of said first and second rear panel straps

including fastening means for securing each end of said first rear panel strap to an end of the second rear panel strap.

5. A horse shoe according to claim 4, wherein said first rear panel strap passes across an inner side of the sole member, and the second rear panel strap passes across an outer surface of the front panel.

6. A horse shoe according to any of claims 2 to 5, wherein said fastening means comprises a buckle attached to each end of one of the first and second straps, the other of the first and second straps preferably having hook and loop fastening material formed therein for fastening said other strap to itself after passing through one of said buckles.

7. A horse shoe according to any of the preceding claims, further including side panels which connect the front and rear panels along each side of the shoe.

8. A horse shoe according to claim 7, wherein each said side panel is formed of resiliently deformable material, preferably elastic, neoprene, or rubber, such that said front and rear panels are movable away from each other to facilitate insertion of an animal hoof into the shoe.

9. A horse shoe according to any of claims 1 to 6, wherein said front panel includes a front panel flap on each side, each front panel flap extending from the front panel along one side of the shoe towards the rear panel, and the rear panel includes a rear panel flap on each side, each rear panel flap extending from the rear panel along one side of the shoe towards the front panel, said front panel flaps and said rear panel flaps overlapping on each side of the shoe so as, in use, to enclose the hoof of the animal within the shoe on all sides.

10. A horse shoe according to claim 9, wherein said front and rear strap assemblies extend across the outside of said front and rear panel flaps on each side of the shoe.

11. A horse shoe according to any of the preceding claims, further including an inner sole member, which may be integrally formed with the sole member or may be detachable therefrom, which is formed of a memory retaining material which moulds to the underside of the foot or hoof of the animal, the innersole preferably having formed thereon two projections, in particular lanceolate leaf shaped projections, which, in use, engage with the frog of the hoof of the animal to provide support thereto.

12. A horse shoe according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said sole member extends around the front of the shoe and partially up the outside of the front panel, and extends around the rear of the shoe and partially up the outside of the rear panel.

13. A horse shoe according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the sole member is inclined upwards at the front and the rear of the shoe.

14. A horse shoe according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the sole member is formed of a plurality of layers which are sandwiched together, portions of said front and rear strap assemblies being integrally formed with one of said layers of said sole member.

15. A horse shoe according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the sole member has a tread pattern formed on its outer surface.

16. A horse shoe according to any of claims 1 to 14, further including an outer sole which is removably fastened to the sole member, the outer sole include a base panel which overlies the sole member, the front extension which extends partially along the front panel of the shoe, and a rear extension which extends partially along the rear panel of the shoe, the outer surface of the outer sole having a tread pattern formed thereon.

17. A horse shoe according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the inner surface of the front panel is formed as a gripping surface such that the front panel grips the outer surface of the front of the hoof or foot of the animal.

18. A horse shoe according to any of the preceding claims, further including a removable inner sole member comprising a base panel which engages with the sole member, and a back panel which extends upwardly from the base panel along the inner surface of the rear panel of the shoe.

19. A composition comprising 95% to 99% Glycerine, 3 to 8 g/kg of *Lavendula angustifolia* x *latifolia*, 0.5 to 1.5 g/kg *Arnica Montana* and 1.5 to 10 g/kg *Melaleuca alternifolia* for use as a medicament.

20. A composition according to claim 19, comprising 99% Glycerine, 0.6% *Lavendula angustifolia* x *latifolia*, 0.1% *Arnica Montana* and 0.3 % *Melaleuca alternifolia*.

21. A composition according to claim 19 or claim 20 for use in the manufacture of a medicament for animal hooves.

22. A method of treating animal hooves comprising the steps of cleaning the hoof, applying a medical composition to the hoof, fitting a horse shoe according to any of claims 1 to 18 to the hoof and tightening the straps.

23. A method according to claim 22, wherein the medical composition is a composite according to claim 19 or claim 20.

24. A method according to claim 22 or claim 23, comprising the further step of wrapping the horse shoe in a bandage after it has been fitted to the hood.

25. A method according to any of claims 22 to 24, comprising the further step of applying a medical gauze to the hoof over the composite before fitting the shoe.